

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 30

For week ending 26 July 1949

Volume II

The International Week

Ratification of the Atlantic Pact by the US Senate (82-13) was the week's most outstanding event. The UN Trusteeship Council concluded its fifth session, endorsing US administration of the Pacific Islands. Meanwhile, in Geneva, ECOSOC turned to consideration of the Point IV program. The US proposed that the UN Atomic Energy Commission drop further talks on atomic energy control until such time as the great powers could attain some agreement. In the world of labor, a committee of sixteen non-Communist trade unions set to work in London drafting a constitution and program for the new non-Communist international.

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A Rising European concern over MAP. With the Atlantic Pact about to go into effect, the European Pact members and other prospective arms recipients are anxiously awaiting the Congressional debate on the MAP. Western Europe is well aware that the AP, despite Congressional doubletalk, is a firm US commitment to aid them if attacked; but it is in mortal fear that such a commitment, unless implemented by sufficient aid to put it in a posture of defense, will guarantee no more than eventual liberation from Soviet occupation. Several countries, particularly France, have already strongly urged that the arms program is essential to give reality to the AP, and should Congress appear hesitant to pass MAP in full this year, their pressure on the US will mount steadily in intensity. The Western European states are acutely conscious of their almost complete lack of adequate forces at present and have consistently looked to the MAP as an indispensable complement of the Atlantic Pact. Consequently, US failure to initiate arms aid promptly will not only cause a severe psychological reaction in Western Europe but will also delay and undercut present Western Union efforts to build up its common defense.

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A WFTU maritime international may create anti-US "Pacific Cartel." The newly organized WFTU International Union of Longshoremen and Maritime Workers, having failed to prolong the London dock strike, may soon attempt to bring into being the "Pacific Cartel" of longshoremen and maritime workers long championed by its US president, Harry Bridges. This "cartel" was conceived by Bridges as a mechanism for blocking supply lines to anti-Communist forces in the Far East and furnishing sabotage and espionage teams to Communist forces. The WFTU, incorporating this conception in its strategy, may seek to shut off anticipated American aid to non-Communist portions of Asia by calling a series of maritime strikes this fall and winter extending from the Philippines to ports in Japan, South China and Malaya. In planning these strikes, the Australian-born Bridges could probably count on substantial support from the powerful Australian Waterside Workers and Seamen's Unions and also from the New Zealand Waterside Workers.

Meanwhile, prompt exposure and deportation by UK authorities of three representatives of the WFTU maritime international ended the belated WFTU effort to prolong the London dockers strike. This effort was to have been augmented by refusal of CGT dockers in all French ports to unload ships arriving from London. Although these moves came too late to affect the outcome of the British strike, the Marseilles-based seamen's international is unlikely to be deterred by this initial repulse and will prepare for a more serious test of its strength and capabilities for interfering with Western shipping.

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A Second try at Lausanne. Although the PCC has reconvened at Lausanne amid expressions of optimism, there is little basis for belief that anything substantial can be achieved before the General Assembly meets in September. With the advent of Mr. Porter, the PCC is expected to take on a new dynamism and submit settlement proposals of its own in contrast to its previous "post office" service between the parties. US approaches have already been made both to Arabs and Israelis. Syria in particular has indicated a desire to return to Lausanne in a more conciliatory frame of mind with new negotiators but at the same time it is clear that Damascus expects the US to bring about concrete Israeli concessions. Furthermore, what understandings the current Arab League meeting will produce is uncertain. Israel vaguely hints that it is sending its new representative, Shiloah, to Lausanne with authority to offer wider concessions. However, until these are spelled out in specific terms of territory, refugees and Jerusalem, it would be premature to give way to any optimism as to what the PCC may accomplish. In all probability, the problem will be tossed back into the lap of the GA this fall.

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Charges of Soviet deportations headed for UN. Recent Soviet mass deportations of persons of non-Russian birth or descent from the perimeter zones of the Caucasus and Baltic regions to the remote interior will unquestionably be brought to the attention of the UN by Greece and perhaps other countries. Some 16,000 people of Greek descent, many of them from families living on the Black Sea coast since the Middle Ages, were among the deportees. The Greeks will probably claim violation of the human rights provisions of the UN Charter and may treat the matter as part of its case against the USSR and the Satellites. Since many of the deportees were of Iranian and Turkish origin, Greece, although prepared to act alone if necessary, would prefer to act in unison with Turkey and Iran. Should the matter come up in the UN, however, the USSR will contend that the deportations are a "domestic question," outside UN jurisdiction.

The Greek deportations are apparently only part of extensive transfers from frontier areas of large groups of politically unreliable persons who are potentially dangerous in case of war. The American Jewish League against Communism has also complained to UN Secretary General Lie that 400,000 Jews are being deported from the Ukraine and White Russia to Archangel and Siberia, allegedly for the dual purpose of getting anti-totalitarian Jews away from the borders in case of war and of permitting Soviet appeasement of anti-Semites in an area where anti-Semitism has always been rife. It is possible that similar transfers will occur in the Satellites where resistance to Communist rule is stronger than in the USSR.

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Bulgarians hampering UNICEF. Communist Bulgaria has been obstructing the distribution of UN International Children's Emergency Fund supplies. In addition to sabotaging the motor car of the UNICEF director for Bulgaria, a US citizen, the latter's chauffeur was arrested on a trumped-up charge of being drunk and disorderly and the key to the director's post office box taken from him. The UNICEF shipping agent was exiled despite the fact that local UNICEF employees are customarily granted diplomatic immunity. The head of UNICEF in Paris has taken a firm position and Bulgaria will probably cease her annoyances and permit the usual inspection and distribution of supplies.

US Legation Sofia feels that the Bulgarian treatment of UNICEF personnel is due to the arrest of the Soviet UN employee Gubitchev in New York and US refusal to recognize any immunities or privileges sufficient to prevent his arrest for espionage. Accordingly, efforts to retain diplomatic protection for UNICEF personnel in Bulgaria may be made quite difficult.

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IOG NOTES

Two new WFTU trade departments founded. International Trade Departments for Food and Building Workers and for Miners were established by the WFTU last week at Milan and Florence. The selection of a Finnish city for the seat of the Woodworkers International and of a Finnish labor leader for its Secretary General is apparently a move to circumvent the refusal of the Finnish national labor federation (Social Democratic) to participate actively in future WFTU activities. Organization of these departments brings into operation six of the twelve industry-wide workers organizations which the WFTU's Communist leadership hopes to found before the end of the year and through which it will seek to draw off increasing numbers of rank-and-file trade unionists in the Western countries.

Communists campaign to oust UNCOOK from Korea. Communists in Korea are intensifying their overt and covert efforts to discredit UNCOOK and oust it from the Republic. The Pyongyang radio has repeatedly broadcast threats against the Commission and demanded its withdrawal. Meanwhile, south of the 38th parallel, agents of the South Korean Labor Party have subtly campaigned in the press with some effect to create fear and prejudice in the minds of UNCOOK delegates and Secretariat by alleging Korean public antagonism to the Commission and by villifying the Korean Government and US activities in the area. However, the recent arrest of five Korean newsmen appears to have checked this campaign temporarily.

Slave labor question. A recently released British document purporting to give the text of Soviet forced labor laws will greatly strengthen Western attacks on Soviet slave labor practices during the current session of the UN Economic and Social Council. In light of past Soviet sensitivity on this subject, the reaction of the USSR to the British move will undoubtedly be violent and vituperative and will include efforts to shift the focus of the forced labor question to the Western nations and especially their colonies.

Legality of UN committees questioned. Fearing that Pakistan's proposal to refer to the International Court of Justice repeated Bulgarian charges of UNSCOB's illegality might imply doubts as to the GA's authority to create commissions such as UNSCOB, has led the State Department to reject the plan. It was, however, apparently received with enthusiasm by several Committee members. A further Pakistani proposal that Syg Lie reject communications embodying such charges was also opposed by the Department as a potential violation of the basic UN Charter principle that UN organs should be universally accessible to all nations. Approval of Pakistan's proposals could be most detrimental to UN operations.

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Pressure for implementation of ITO commodity chapter. One aspect of the Western European, particularly British, effort to stabilize the international commodity market and thus protect sales to the dollar area is their proposal that Chapter VI of the ITO charter, covering the rules for intergovernmental commodity agreements, be provisionally implemented now. The UK, supported by the Netherlands and France, recently made such a proposal at Annecy, calling for provisional creation of the inter-governmental commission envisaged in Chapter VI.

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